IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1.   (Currently Amended) An overload control method for use in a network employing

5   distributed call-processing, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a call set up request from an end terminal;

determining if sufficient resources exist in a call processor to process said call set up

request;

identifying an alternate call processor to process said call set up request using a list of

10   call processors if sufficient resources do not exist, wherein said list of call processors includes a

congestion status of one or more of said call processors; and

forwarding said call set up request to said identified alternate call processor with an

identifier of said congested call processor, whereby said forwarded call set up request indicates to

said alternate call processor that said congested call processor is congested.

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2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a call processor that previously received a

forwarded call set up request within a predefined interval is not selected as the alternate call

processor during said identifying step.

20   3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step further comprises the

step of evaluating a congestion indicator flag associated with each potential alternate call processor,

wherein said congestion indicator flag is set if a congestion message is received from said

corresponding alternate call processor.

25   4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said forwarding step further comprises the

step of setting a flag indicating that said selected alternate call processor received said forwarded

call set up request.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said flag indicating that said selected

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alternate call processor received said forwarded call set up request automatically expires after a predefined interval.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step further comprises the step of evaluating a total congestion indicator flag indicating whether all potential alternate call processors are congested.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said list of call processors is an ordered list.

8.   (Currently Amended) An overload control method for use in a network employing distributed call-processing, said method comprising the steps of:

        receiving a forwarded call set up request from a congested call processor, said forwarded call set up request including an identifier of said congested call processor; and

        setting a flag associated with said congested call processor indicating that said congested call processor is congested by utilizing said received call set up request.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of determining if sufficient resources exist to process said forwarded call set up request.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of setting a timer associated with said flag.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of automatically expiring said flag in accordance with said timer.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of receiving a call set up request from an end terminal, determining if sufficient resources exist to process said call set up

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request and identifying an alternate call processor to process said call set up request using said flag associated with each potential alternate call processor.

13.   (Currently Amended) An overload control manager for use in a network employing distributed call-processing, comprising:

a memory for storing computer readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to:

receive a call set up request from an end terminal;

determine if sufficient resources exist in a call processor to process said call set up request;

identify an alternate call processor to process said call set up request using a list of call processors if sufficient resources do not exist, wherein said list of call processors includes a congestion status of one or more of said call processors; and

forward said call set up request to said identified alternate call processor with an identifier of said congested call processor, whereby said forwarded call set up request indicates to said alternate call processor that said congested call processor is congested.

14.   (Original) The overload control manager of claim 13, wherein a call processor that previously received a forwarded call set up request within a predefined interval is not selected as the alternate call processor during said identifying step.

15.   (Original) The overload control manager of claim 13, wherein said processor is further configured to evaluate a congestion indicator flag associated with each potential alternate call processor, wherein said congestion indicator flag is set if a congestion message is received from said corresponding alternate call processor.

16.   (Original) The overload control manager of claim 13, wherein said processor is further configured to set a flag indicating that said selected alternate call processor received said forwarded call set up request.

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17.   (Original) The overload control manager of claim 16, wherein said flag indicating that said selected alternate call processor received said forwarded call set up request automatically expires after a predefined interval.

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18.   (Original) The overload control manager of claim 13, wherein said processor is further configured to evaluate a total congestion indicator flag indicating whether all potential alternate call processors are congested.

10   19.   (Original) The overload control manager of claim 13, wherein said list of call processors is an ordered list.

20.   (Currently Amended) An overload control manager for use in a network employing distributed call-processing, comprising:

15   a memory for storing computer readable code; and

            a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to:

            receiving a forwarded call set up request from a congested call processor, said forwarded call set up request including an identifier of said congested call processor; and

            setting a flag associated with said congested call processor indicating that said

20   congested call processor is congested by utilizing said received call set up request.

21.   (Original) The overload control manager of claim 20, wherein said processor is further configured to determine if sufficient resources exist to process said forwarded call set up request.

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22.   (Original) The overload control manager of claim 20, wherein said processor is further configured to set a timer associated with said flag.

23.   (Original) The overload control manager of claim 20, wherein said processor is

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further configured to automatically expire said flag in accordance with said timer.

24.	(Original) The overload control manager of claim 20, wherein said processor is further configured to (i) receive a call set up request from an end terminal, (ii) determine if sufficient resources exist to process said call set up request and (iii) identify an alternate call processor to process said call set up request using said flag associated with each potential alternate call processor.